

Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJ: UN ADMINISTRATION - COMPOSITION OF SECRETARIAT

REF: STATE 183453

1. PURSUANT TO REFTTEL, WE HAVE MADE STRONG APPROACHES BOTH TO ACTING DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL WEBB AND USYG DAVIDSON ON CONTENT OF DRAFT SYG REPORT ON COMPOSITION OF THE SECRETARIAT. WE BELIEVE WEBB MAY HAVE MADE EFFORT TO INSERT LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD SLIGHTLY ASSUAGE OUR CONCERNS, BUT HE WAS EVIDENTLY REBUFFED. USYG DAVIDSON TOLD US HE HAD APPROVED REPORT AND IT WOULD BE ISSUED SOON. AS BEST WE CAN TELL, IT IS SUBSTANTIALLY IN SAME FORM AS DRAFT WE SENT DEPARTMENT, WITH ADDITION THAT SYG NOW RECOMMENDS INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP FACTOR TO MIDPOINT OF 4.5, WITH FLEXIBILITY OF 15 PERCENT OF MINIMUM OF 2.5 POSTS (THUS RANGE FOR SMALLEST CONTRIBUTORS WOULD BE 2 TO 7 INSTEAD OF CURRENT 1 TO 6; US RANGE WOULD BE 389 TO 527 BASED ON 2700 TOTAL POSTS COMPARED TO CURRENT RANGE OF 358 TO 523 BASED ON 2400 TOTAL POSTS.).

2. DAVIDSON INSISTED THAT SECRETARIAT WAS OBLIGATED BECAUSE OF 29TH GA RESOLUTION TO PROPOSE AN INCREASE IN THE ALLOTMENT OF JOBS RESULTING FROM UN MEMBERSHIP, AND HE THOUGHT THE MIDPOINT OF 4.5 WAS AN EXCELLENT COMPROMISE. HE SAID THE CHANGE IN THE METHOD OF COMPUTING DESIRABLE RANGES PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT REPORT WOULD WORK TO THE BENEFIT

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OF THE US AND OTHER LARGE CONTRIBUTORS, SINCE THE MINI-

MUM FIGURE IN THEIR RANGE WOULD NO LONGER BE THE LONG TERM OBJECTIVE. FOR THE SMALLEST CONTRIBUTORS, THE LONG TERM OBJECTIVE IS NOW CONSIDERED TO BE THE MAXIMUM FIGURE IN THEIR RANGE. THIS IS BASED ON THE SECRETARIAT'S INTERPRETATION OF THE 1962 GA DECISION ON THE CALCULATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP AND POPULATION FACTORS, WHICH IT CLAIMS TO HAVE IMPLEMENTED CONSISTENTLY SINCE THEN WITHOUT OBJECTION. IN REPLY TO DAVIDSON'S ARGUMENT WE OBSERVED SIMPLY THAT THE PROPOSED COMPUTATION REFORM COULD NOT CONCEAL THE FACT THAT RAISING THE MEMBERSHIP FACTOR WOULD PER SE DISADVANTAGE THE LARGER CONTRIBUTORS AND THIS WAS CLEARLY THE INTENT OF THE SMALL CONTRIBUTORS.

3. WE ALSO PRESSED DAVIDSON HARD ON ABSENCE IN DRAFT REPORT OF ANY REAL CONSIDERATION OF ELIMINATING OR REDUCING THE POPULATION FACTOR. DAVIDSON SAID HE COULD NOT INCLUDE THIS WHEN ONLY ONE MEMBER STATE HAD SUGGESTED IT. SIMILARLY, HE HAD DECLINED TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF LANGUAGE POSTS IN GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION SINCE ONLY ONE OR TWO COUNTRIES HAD RAISED THIS. DAVIDSON ADMITTED THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE POPULATION FACTOR AND SAW LOGIC OF OUR POINT THAT INCREASE OF MEMBERSHIP FACTOR SEVERAL YEARS AGO FROM 1-5 TO 1-6 SUBSTANTIALLY TOOK CARE OF THE PROBLEM WHICH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE POPULATION FACTOR HAD REALLY BEEN DESIGNED TO MEET. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD ACQUIESCED FOR MANY YEARS IN THE USE OF THE POPULATION FACTOR.

4. WE HAVE EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH JAPANESE, WEST GERMANS, BRITISH, AND FRENCH ON THIS SUBJECT AND URGED THEM ALL TO MAKE SIMILAR APPROACHES TO SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS.
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